

International Brotherhood of

BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS



BLACKSMITHS • FORGERS & HELPERS

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June 29, 2006

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, I write in support of H.R. 4716, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act. This legislation is a sensible bi-partisan compromise that will enable access to the energy our nation needs for economic growth and job creation.

For too long, America's deep ocean energy resources have been off-limits to responsible exploration. Subsequently, rising energy costs have resulted in the loss of good-paying U.S. manufacturing jobs. While there are other factors associated with the decline in American manufacturing, access to these energy resources, in particular natural gas, is needed for future job creation and is critical to stemming further losses. In the last five years, more than 3 million jobs have gone overseas as energy-intensive industries seek cheaper places to do business. American consumers, both families and businesses, have been burdened by the world's highest natural gas prices. The DOER Act will help address the growing imbalance between the demand for and supply of natural gas, while providing states the authority to protect their coastlines.

Further, the manager's amendment includes a much needed update to hiring standards under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to ensure that skilled American workers are employed in the manning and construction of rigs, vessels, and other structures. This provision requires that all drilling operations, including those owned by foreign firms, are subject to applicable U.S. immigration laws. This is a tremendous opportunity for Congress to create job opportunities for Americans workers. The manager's amendment seeks to ensure that these jobs, once created, actually go to our nation's citizens, and we appreciate the committee's recognition of this commonsense approach.

Again, we urge you to support H.R. 4716, and thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bridget P. Martin
Assistant to the International President
Director of Government Affairs

BPM: ab

cc: Newton B. Jones, IP
U. S. International Vice-Presidents
U. S. Local Lodges